



Starlight Express

Starlight Quilters Guild

www.starlightquilters.com

Presidents Message

—Connie Flagler



Does it seem possible that it is 2010? It's been a season of changes for our household. My youngest daughter and her family have relocated to Ft. Bragg, N.C. This is the first time we've been separated from our 3 year old grandson Jacob by such distance. No more every other weekend visits by the kids or week or longer stays at Nana and Papa's with Jake. At least they'll be fewer and farther between. My oldest daughter may be moving also. Her boyfriend's job ends in January of 2010 after 25 years. His company is shutting down permanently. We have one grandson (9) in Pensacola and a grandson (8) and granddaughter (12) in Shawnee. I still haven't made quilts for all of the adults yet but have for the kids. Hopefully I will reach that goal by next Christmas. When we don't have company I like to read, shop for fabric, take classes, cook and travel with my husband Mike who is a competitive pistol shooter. We have been retired for about 3 1/2 years now. I am also the Membership Chair for the Garden Club of Shawnee and have been involved with that for a number of years. I know a few of you are also in that group. I will have a lot of extra time on my hands to work with our guild and our exciting 30th Anniversary. We have a great year of programs lined up and a great team of quilters on board. I'm looking forward to a productive year quilting, getting to know all of you and having a lot of fun with our great group here at Starlight. This year we are going to have several workshops on guild night for those of you who don't have time to take a class. Please take advantage of those, they are reasonably priced and are a great way to try something new or brush up on a skill. I'm praying that each and every one of you has a healthy, happy 2010. LET'S QUILT!



January Program

Border to Border- Jeanne Poore



I can't think of a better or more appropriate way to kick off our anniversary year than with a program by long-time Starlight member Jeanne Poore. Jeanne is an internationally known quilting instructor, lecturer, designer and author. Her quilting is grounded in her Kansas upbringing and she is well known for her expertise in redrafting quilt patterns originally published in the Kansas City Star. The Star's first official book on the patterns, *Star Quilts: The Legendary Kansas City Star Quilt Patterns*, featured patterns redrafted by Jeanne, and her quilts have been published in numerous magazines and books. Jeanne has also written books such as *Santa's Parade of Nursery Rhymes*, *Fan Quilt Memories* and *Kansas Spirit*. We all enjoy seeing Jeanne's quilts and know that one thing that makes her quilts special are the borders. But do all quilts need borders? Come hear Jeanne's lecture "Border to Border" and learn the answer to this question. You will also learn tips to help you finish your quilt projects. Different sizes, shapes, and finishing techniques for borders will be shown from Jeanne's collection of antique and new quilts.



SQG Anniversary Pin

Don't wait. Purchase your 30th anniversary of Starlight Quilters Guild pin before this limited edition of only 100 are gone. At the low price of only \$5 each they are sure to sell out fast. Proceeds from the sale of these pins will go to support the Programs and Workshops committee and the programs they've lined up for this year. The pins will be for sale at the Programs and Workshops table at the guild meeting.

Finish Fabulously

—by Lynne Zeh

Backing Your Quilt with a Sheet and Other One Piece Solutions

The positive aspects of a “one piece” backing solution are that it is quicker to get to the basting process, for reducing needling issues and for creating smoother finishes on the back side of the quilt. A previously popular solution for backing quilts without having to piece something together used to be the use of a sheet. These sheets were made of muslin, with a thread count equal or close to the available cotton fabric of the day. In the early 1960’s more and more sheets began to be manufactured by machines and the thread count got higher per square inch. The fiber content also started migrating to more and more man-made fibers which caused the use of sheets to fall out of favor. The main reason is that they are *hard to needle* through. And it doesn’t matter if you quilt by hand or by machine. The thread count difference makes for an uneven look; the stitches will be of different sizes on the top and bottom, and the thread stays on the surface of the sheet creating very little noticeable texture. Your needle no matter what the size will flow through the top of your quilt, flow through the batting and then “thunk” and maybe even deflecting off the sheet causing what looks like skipped stitches. In reverse when pushing your needle up from the under side you will encounter a lot of resistance making the quilting process much harder than it needs to be. If you are using a machine the needle may even produce various sucking sounds in protest and you may find yourself constantly adjusting your tension to get good stitches. A sheet can be used for a tied quilt, but **as a rule for today sheets are not a good choice!**

Today’s sheets (actually anything made after 1968) are woven much tighter than the cotton fabrics we use to piece with, therefore much harder to needle through by hand or machine. Mass produced sheeting is woven 300 to 800 threads per square inch. Our cotton fabrics found in quilt shops are woven 180 to 260 threads per square inch. I don’t accept them in my studio as even “Gert” complains when quilting with them. It slows her down and causes needle deflections which in turn ruin fluid quilting designs.

So here are a few suggestions in place of sheets. Maybe you have an “unsuccessful” quilt top just lying around. Use the same guidelines that you would for the quilt top; clean, de-threaded, well pressed and

larger than your real quilt top on all four sides. The recipient of the quilt will know the difference between the front and the back of the quilt because you will have a label attached to the backside. What a way to pay homage to all the time and effort you put into that unsuccessful top without just throwing it away or putting it into a yard sale. And most recipients won’t know the difference.

Another option requiring no additional sewing is a wool blanket. It’s yummy to quilt through and what a way to recycle a blanket. Be sure to stay stitch the edges before you baste your layers together. I would also do a small color test to make sure that moisture will not cause any color bleeding through to the top.

These next couple of ideas can be used as a one piece or maybe a seamed solution. I have some really definite good tips concerning the seams so I’ll save that for the next issue.

Decorator weight fabric is a wonderful choice for wall pieces. It is heavier than cotton, quilts great on a machine and comes in great color and style choices. It does have two drawbacks, you won’t get much stitch definition from the quilting and it can be heavy. If your piece measures anymore than 60 x 60 inches I would audition the three layers together to make sure that you will be able to hang the piece without it curling or pulling the hardware off the wall.

One of my all time favorite options for the back of my quilts are flannels, wools, woven’s. All of these are easy to needle through, give wonderful texture with the quilting and create really “snuggly” quilts. I do suggest that you serge or at least stay stitch the edges to keep these fabrics from stretching during quilting.

And lastly, can you use Minky? I have found that Minky is best used in smaller patch work and maybe as a backing on 36’x36’ baby quilts. Any more than that and the Minky becomes problematic with stretching, shredding and quilting stitches that sometimes makes the Minky unattractive.

In the next issue I will continue on the topic of backing your quilt and over a pet peeve of mine, seams. As always enjoy your quilting and with these tips you are well on your way to Finishing Fabulously



Linus-

By Karen Moore

As the new year begins so does the new "count" for Linus Blankets. Also with the new year I will be the new Chair for Linus --- please give Carol Cleary a big thank you for her good work in the past. Our hope is still to have each member make at least three blankets to help us reach our goal. After those three have been turned in you will get a ticket put in a drawing for each additional blanket and at the Nov. 2010 meeting we will draw one ticket for a membership to Starlight for 2011. Thank you all in advance for your contributions to this wonderful organization. Happy New Year,



Membership

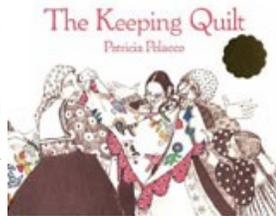
—Marilyn Carr



It's time to renew your membership to the Guild. The fee is \$25 for a year of fun and excitement. Your name will not be on the 2010 roster, which will be handed out in February, if you have not paid your dues in January. If you have not had your picture taken, Jan Fortney will be back by the refreshment table to "shoot" you. Please let us know of any change in address/phone/email. For those unable to attend the January meeting, a check can be dropped in the mail to: PO Box 9362, Shawnee Mission KS 66201.

The Keeping Quilt— by Jan Fortney

If you have a young person who maybe has shown a bit of interest in quilting, I recommend a book that I found at the KC Public Library. It's called **The Keeping Quilt** by Patricia Polacco. The library shows it as an EASY to read book. The drawings are excellent and very interesting to look at. It's about the history of a particular quilt as it travels through generations and is treasured at all stages. I had heard it reviewed on NPR and picked it up. I enjoyed reading it myself. I highly recommend this extraordinary book for the young quilter in your life!





QUILTER'S STATION

Fabrics | Quilting | Supplies

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806 SW BLUE PARKWAY | LEES SUMMIT, MO. 64063

Selected as one of the Top Ten Shops in American Patchwork and Quilting, Quilt Sampler Magazine Spring 2006

Quilter's Station is moving to a new location in early January.

3680 NE Akin Dr.
Lees Summit, MO 64064
816-525-8955

Directions: Off 470 take the Woods Chapel exit and go west. Turn left (south) on Ralph Powell Road (2nd stoplight). Quilter's Station is on the right, just to the south of Sonic.

Fat Quarter Bingo— June 2010



- Plain Jane
- Jo's Little Women
- Toile
- Delft Blue

Fat Quarter Drawing 2010

- January— Toys R Us
- February— Forever Plaid or Paisley
- March— Out of Africa
- April— It's Raining Cats or Dogs
- May— Mid Century Retro
- June— Fat Quarter Bingo
- July— Fruit Salad
- August— Geometric Art
- September— Back to School
- October— I am Woman
- November— Caffeine Jitters



TIP

Use a felt tip pen to mark the notch when you take the thread end out of a spool for the first time. You'll easily be able to relocate the notch to lock the thread end back in place for storage.

Up Coming Workshops!

Cathedral Window Workshop-



If you've already signed up for Jeanne Poore's Cathedral Window workshop remember that you have homework to do before the class meets. If you have misplaced your supply list or pre-class cutting instructions, see Donna di Natale or Lorna Larson for another copy. If you haven't signed up for Jeanne's class it isn't too late. There are still two spots available. The date is Saturday, February 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The cost is \$15.00, which is payable upon registration. Workshop contact: Donna di Natale at dinatale@att.net or (913) 541-0283.

Lynne Hagmeier Mini Workshop-

Fabric and pattern designer Lynne Hagmeier will present a mini workshop at 6:00 p.m. on **March 23, 2010**, prior to the regular guild meeting. Participants will learn wool felt appliqué to make this Tulip Scissor Holder. The fee for the workshop is \$10 (due at the time of sign-up), and includes the cost of the complete scissor holder kit. Sign up for this workshop at the January and February meeting.



1855 Harris-Kearney House— SQG Quilt Day on April 24 and 25



We've been invited to show our favorite quilts, tell their stories, talk about quilting, why we quilt and anything else that might interest visitors to this lovely historic Westport home. I would love to have approximately 10 quilters per day. April 24 (11am-4pm) or April 25 (2pm-5pm). If you're interested, please call Jan Fortney 816-523-7841 or e-mail fortney@swbell.net for more information.

Selvages

—Kristi Orr

I have a couple of friends who are using selvages for projects. If you would like to donate/give, please cut off the selvage with approximately 1/2 inch of fabric on them. Just put them in a bag and bring to the guild meeting and give to Kristi Orr. Thanks in advance!



Looking Ahead!

—Kristi Orr

There will be a fun fabric exchange to participate in this year—Stay Tuned!



Blog- For those of you who are interested in quilts, especially old quilts, I've started a new blog that will talk about some of my quilts, including collecting and caring for quilts old and new. I'd love to have you follow along and provide comments. Here is the link: <http://heartlandquilts.blogspot.com/>

Board Meetings 2010-

The board meetings for 2010 are:

- January 19,
- April 20,
- July 20
- October 19.



6:30 PM at Countryside Christian Church

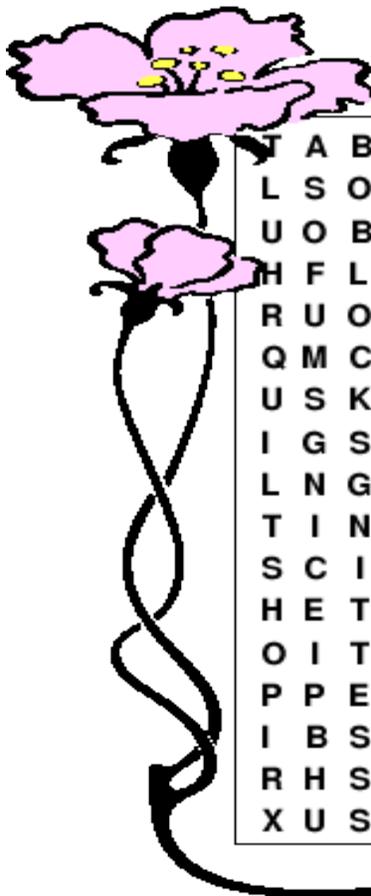
Do you have a Birthday This Month?

Well , Happy Birthday. Please bring a snack or dessert for the Hospitality Table to share. Your fellow SQG members will be deliriously happy to share your goodies! No doubt someone will beg for your recipe. **This**



month's birthdays: Ruth Ann Bonin; Lois Donaldson; Victoria Foley; Liz Irvine; Sheila Lynch; Delphina Martinez; Janice Meloan; Jean Patchen; Lori Wagner

Quilter's Wordsearch



T	A	B	O	R	B	D	N	A	W	O	H	S	T	A	M
L	S	O	E	P	O	O	H	I	S	C	R	A	P	S	R
U	O	B	T	E	T	S	A	B	A	T	T	I	N	G	F
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R	U	O	O	N	M	O	O	T	D	A	G	D	N	O	E
Q	M	C	I	E	M	P	H	W	O	S	S	A	I	E	P
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BASTE
 BATTING
 BEE
 BETWEENES
 BIAS
 BIND
 BLOCKS
 CHATELAINE
 CHEATER

FABRIC
 FRAME
 GRAIN
 HEM
 HOOP
 MYSTERY
 NEEDLETURN
 ON POINT
 PAPER

PATTERNS
 PINS
 POPPED KNOTS
 QUILT SHOP
 RIP
 SCRAPS
 SEAMS
 SETTING
 SEW

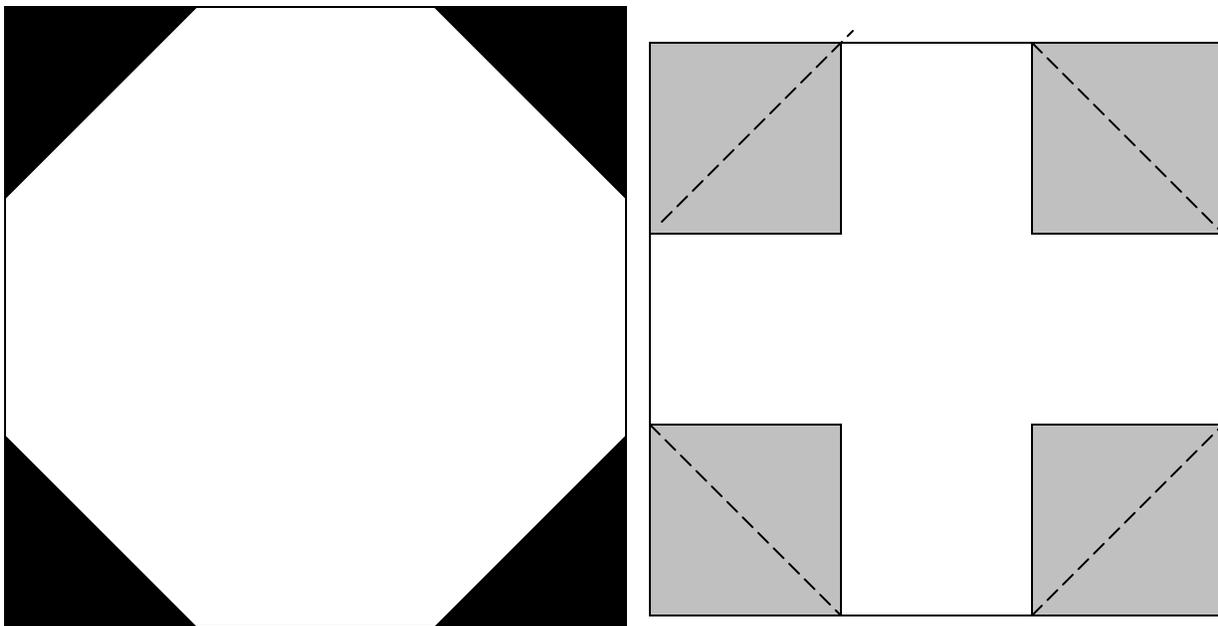
SLEEVE
 STASH
 THREADS
 TIED
 TOEHOOKERS
 UFOS
 WAX
 WORKSHOP

Block of the Month

— Donna di Natale

A new feature of the newsletter for 2010 will be a Block of the Month. The blocks will all have a skill level of beginner or intermediate.

January's block is appropriate for the weather we've been experiencing recently. The name of the block is Snowball. My research of this block revealed that it has had many names and variations over the years. The pattern reproduced here is by far the easiest and most versatile. I was unable to confirm when this design was first introduced or first called "Snowball" but the same pattern was printed in the Kansas City Star as the Marble Floor block in October of 1930. Doesn't it remind you of the black and white tile floors in old bathrooms? While it is a very easy block to make it can be quite attractive when the snow white center is combined with bright or jewel tone corner triangles. It can also be made as a two-color quilt, such as the red and white quilts popular in the late 1800s and early 1900s. This pattern is for a 6-inch block but can easily be made smaller or larger.

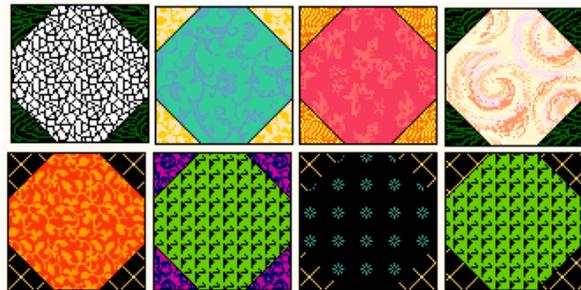


Snowball (6" finished size)

For each block cut:

One 6 1/2 inch square of white or white-on-white

Four 2 3/8 inch squares of contrast color.



2010 Events Calendar

January 26— **Jeanne Poore**, *Border to Border*

February 23— **Jerry Strube**, *Great Quilts I Have Known (or wished for)*

March 23— **Lynne Hagmeier**, *Kansas Troubles Quilts—Moda and Beyond*. **Bring a friend night**

April 27—**Roberta Horton**, *Find It! Buy it! Use It!* \$5 for non-members

May 25—**Libby Wells**, *LibQuilts Collection Trunk Show*

June 22—Fat Quarter Bingo

July 27—**Jo Morton**, *Making Something New That Looks Like Olde*. \$5 for non-members (Location TBA)

August 24—**Deb Rowden**, *Making Memories*

September 28—Quilting Bee and Quilted Postcard Workshop

September 17-19 — SQG Retreat at the Barn

October 26—**Kathy Delaney**, *If I'm the Appliqué Queen, Where is my Crown?*

November 16—**Caroline Searles**, *Closets, Shelves, Trunks, and Under the Bed*



Advertisements

FREE! Post your AD Here! If you are a guild member in good standing and would like to run your **FREE** ad, send your information to the newsletter editors. See back page for details.

Pieces in Plaid Quilting by Lynne Zeh. A professional full service quilter for 6 years. Located in Lenexa, KS. Call 913-322-8866 for free consult. lynnez@everestkc.new

Machine Quilting by Lyn Heilman. Please call 913-492-8877. Edge to edge, custom and heirloom quilting. T-shirt, memory ad memorial quilts designed and created. Official Hobbs distributor. lyn@quiltedmemoriesllc.com

Machine Quilting Winter Special: Bring in a quilt top in January and I'll piece your backing or add a border (from your fabric) at no extra cost. Contact Peggy Skaith at 913-341-0525 or especialquilts@att.net

Machine Quilting. Call Lea Robrahn—

Machine Quilting by Julia Day. Is your piecing ready to transform? Call for your consultation today.

Communications-

Let us know of any concerns, deaths, triumphs, or if someone needs help with something. This way we know what is going on with our fellow members and can send cards, etc. Contact one of these members:

- Rosie Brinker—913-268-8819- or roise474@aol.com
- Shirley Lewis— 913-722-5486 or sll849@aol.com
- Barbara DeMack— 913-485-3966 or barbstoys4u@hotmail.com



Starlight E-site — the Yahoo Group

—Lea Robrahn

Starlight E-site is an online club where Starlight members get together to share photos, links, documents or files and have a message board to post items of interest. It sounds more complicated than it is. You can elect to read all information on the E-Site, which leaves your inbox less cluttered. To join:

1. Send an email message to Lea Robrahn (remove spaces) leannieg@hotmail.com
2. You'll then be sent an invitation from Starlight E-Site.
3. Join



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: 2010 Membership New or Renewal \$25.00. Your annual dues bring the newsletter chocked full of information and news of upcoming events to your e-mail or home; provide a lending library of quilting books available to members; and other benefits too numerous to mention!

MEETING DATE AND TIME: Monthly guild meetings are held 6:30-9:00 pm every 4th Tuesday, January—October at **Countryside Christian Church, 6101 Nall, Mission, KS.** The November meeting date is determined each year based on the Thanksgiving holiday. There is no December meeting.



CHANGES? If you have moved, changed your name, e-mail address or telephone numbers (home, work or cell), please bring them with you to the next guild meeting or mail them to the Starlight Quilters Guild, PO Box 9362, Shawnee Mission, KS 66201.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:



Articles are due by the 5th of the month. E-Mail your article to Margaret Welch at mwelch5@kc.rr.com (913-432-4515) AND copy Jan Fortney at fortney@swbell.net (816-523-7841) Either of us may work on your newsletter.

MEETING CANCELLATION—SQG meetings will be canceled if the Shawnee Mission School District cancels classes. Monitor announcements on TV and radio when bad weather threatens.

NEXT SQG MEETING!

Tuesday, January 26, 2009
6:30PM—Meet friends, gobble some goodies, bring some boutique items or tickets, sign up to volunteer!

7:00PM—Jeanne Poore-Border to Border



Remember to Bring:

- Nametag
- Show & Tell
- Library Books
- Goodies (if it's your BD)
- Fat Quarters (see list)

Starlight Quilters Guild
 P.O. Box 9362
 Shawnee Mission, KS 66201-2062
www.geocities.com/starlightquilters